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MAX REINHARDT

and

HIS SALZBURG

A Portfolio of Drawings

By

Lucie R. Sayler

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MAX REINHARDT

and

HIS SALZBURG

A Portfolio of Twenty Drawings

by

Lucie R. Sayler

With an Introduction by

Max Reinhardt

Brentano's

27th Street at Fifth Avenue ~ ~ New York



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Lucie R. Saylor



SALZBURG

Home of My Theatre

THIRTY YEARS AGO, as a boy of twenty, I came to Salzburg from Vienna. The municipal theatre of Salzburg opened its doors for its very first season, and it happened to be also my first season as an actor. One year later, I left for Berlin, whence I returned to Salzburg only after a quarter of a century. Behind these dry data are the ambitions and the sentiments of a lifetime; but the necessary brevity of a foreword to the charming drawings of Lucie R. Saylor happily denies me the opportunity of giving vent to my feelings.

Once more back in Austria, I am essentially conscious that in the passionate work inspired by the activity of a great city theatre, the most precious thing is lost: the sense of play, which is so strong in childhood and cannot be dispensed with in art and especially in the theatre. I realize, too, that the North German stage does not provide sufficient nourishment either for the musical elements in the theatre or for the dramatic elements, as they are found in the old Austrian and Bavarian theatre, such as the *commedia dell'arte*, the production of mystery-plays and religious works.

Strongly convinced of all this again in my home landscape, I have felt the desire to create a theatre there where the theatre originated, on Austro-Bavarian soil, in the city where I began my career. Here is real folk-poetry (Oberammergau, Zell-am-See, etc.), and this poetry does not exist to be read in books, but has sprung from the joy of play. Only thus can the true theatre originate.

Salzburg, because of its situation, its architecture, its past history, and Mozart, is the natural place for this theatre. A truly festival spot, where all men gather to spend their holidays. Whether it be to climb mountains; or to enjoy the beautiful, almost undisturbed architecture of earlier times, or music. So it was a logical idea to found there a theatre, the Salzburger Festspielhaus, that would be likewise in festival and holiday spirit, that would be built on principles different from those under which a theatre enterprise in a great city suffers, that would be as free as possible from all commercial conditions.

In this way, Salzburg has become much more to me than a reminiscence of my youth and a dreamy abode for repose and retirement. Oliver M. Saylor has called Salzburg the "cradle and capstone" of my art. I hesitate to become any more entangled in theorising about myself and my art, but this I will say: Salzburg is the home of my heart.

Max Reinhardt.



List of Plates

- I Franziskanerkirche and Dom from the Mönchsberg
- II Leopoldskron, Home of Max Reinhardt, from the South
- III Hohensalzburg
- IV Nonnberggasse
- V North Façade of Schloss Leopoldskron
- VI Brunnhausgasse
- VII Franziskanergasse
- VIII The Untersberg from the Terrace of Schloss Leopoldskron
- IX Pfeifergasse
- X On the Nonnberg
- XI The Gaisberg from the Grounds of Schloss Leopoldskron
- XII The Meyerhof of Leopoldskron
- XIII Gisela-Kai
- XIV The Hercules-Pond of Leopoldskron
- XV Stift St. Peter
- XVI Kaltenhaustor
- XVII The St. Margarethenkapelle from the Catacombs
- XVIII The Terrace of Schloss Leopoldskron
- XIX A Salzburger Farmhouse
- XX St. Wolfgang, in the Salzkammergut



















































































